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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA

FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE...SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, and

NEVADA DEPARTMENT of CONSERVATION and NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of WATER RESOURCES

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State and private organizations listed on the last page of this report.



TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several manths before the snaw melts and appears as streamflaw. Since the runoff from precipitation as snaw is delayed, estimates af snowmelt runaff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally an measurement af the water equivalent of the mauntain snawpack.

Farecasts become mare accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snaw accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A tatal af about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reparted as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snaw surveys are made manthly or semi-manthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1400 snow caurses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Calumbia. In the near future, it is anticipated that automatic snow water equivalent sensing devices along with radia telemetry will provide a continuous record af snow water equivalent at key lacations.

Detailed data an snow course and soil maisture measurements are presented in state and lacal reports. Other data an reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflaw, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report far Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply autlook canditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and starage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and sail maisture data far the periad of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about Octaber 1 of each year.

PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Sail Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snaw survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in caoperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports far Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Canservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Raam 209, 701 N. W. Glisan, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and lacal reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Canservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	P. O. Box "F", Palmer, Alaska 99645
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85205
Colorada (N. Mex.)	12417 Federal Building, Denver, Colorado 80521
Idaho	P. O. Box 38, Boise, Idaho 83707
Mantana	P. O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregan 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Building, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Washington	360 U.S. Caurt House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Bax 340, Casper, Wyoming 82602

PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Farecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA

and FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

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INDEX TO NEVADA SNOW COURSES

(By Basins)

NUMBER 5 N A K F	NAME SNAKE RIVER B		RGE.	ELEV.
15H I MA 15H 2 15H 13 15H 15A 14H 1 15H 2Oa 15H 14 15H 18a 15H 3A 15H 3A	BEAR CREEK FOX CREEK GOAT CREEK HUMMINGBIRO 5PRINGS JAKES CREEK MERRITT MOUNTAIN POLE CREEK RANGER STATION REO POINT 76 CREEK 5TAG MTN.	31 46N 33 46N 6 45N 6 42N 10 46N 13 46N 15 47N 6 44N 29 41N	58E 58E 60E 62E 54E 59E 58E	7800 6800 8900 8945 7000 8330 7940 7100 7800
	EE RIVER 81G 8ENO COLUMBIA 8ASIN FAWN CREEK GOLO CREEK JACK CREEK, LOWER JACK CREEK, UPPER JACKS PEAK LAUREL ORAW LOUSE (CANYON (OREG.) TAYLOR CANYON	30 45N 31 44N 2 45N 32 45N 18 42N 9 42N 28 42N 20 45N 27 405 35 39N	56E 53E 56E 53E 53E 53E 53E 53E 544E 53E	6700 6650 7000 6600 6800 7250 8420 6700 6440 6200
HPPFI	INTERIOR R HUMBOLOT RIVER			
15J17 a 16H6 a 15J12A 15J1MP 15J3 15H7 15J9MP 15J10 15J11 15J4 15J5 15J6M 15J7 15J8P 15J18a 15J16a 1	AMERICAN BEAUTY COLUMBIA BASIN CORRAL CANYON OORSEY BASIN ORY CREEK FRY CANYON GREEN MOUNTAIN HARRISON PASS #1 HARRISON PASS #2 LAMOILLE #1 LAMOILLE #1 LAMOILLE #3 LAMOILLE #3 LAMOILLE #5 POLE CANYON ROBINSON LAKE ROBEO FLAT RYAN RANCH TREMEWAN RANCH TROUT CREEK, LOWER TROUT CREEK, LOWER	32 31N 44N 27 28N 35N 34N 311 43N 23 29N 16 28N 15 32N 15 32N 31 35N 36 43N 9 39N 28 37N 4 36N 4 36N	58 E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E	7 8 0 0 6 6 5 0 8 1 0 0 6 7 0 0 8 0 0 0 6 7 0 0 8 0 0 0 7 4 0 0 7 3 0 0 7 3 0 0 9 1 4 0 9 1 4 0 6 8 0 0 5 7 0 0 8 5 0 0 8 6 8 0 9 7 0 9 1
LOWER 17K1 17K2 17K3 17H2 17H1 17J2 17H4 17H5 17H1 17H3 16H3AP 16H7	R HUMBOLOT RIVER BIG CREEK CAMP GROUNO BIG CREEK MINE BIG CREEK MINE BIG CREEK, UPPER BUCKSKIN, LOWER BUCKSKIN, UPPER GOLCONOA #2 GRANITE PEAK LAMANCE CREEK LOWER CORRAL MARTIN CREEK MIOAS TOE JAM & UPPER CORRAL	10 17N 23 17N 26 17N 25 45N 11 45N 22 35N 22 44N 13 42N 12 11N 18 44N 18 39N 29 40N 20 11N	433EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE	6600 7600 8000 6700 8200 6000 7800 6000 7500 7200 7200 7700 8500
EASTE 14L1 14L2 14L3 14K2 14K1 15J13 15J14 15J15 14K8 14K8 14K8 14K1 14K5	ERN NEVAOA BAKER #1 8AKER #2 BAKER #3 8ERRY CREEK BIRO CREEK CAVE CREEK CAVE CREEK HAGER CANYON HOLE-IN-MTN KALAMAZOO CREEK MURRAY 5UMMIT ROBINSON 5UMMIT 5ILVER CREEK #2 WARO MOUNTAIN #2 WHITE RIVER #1	29 13N 30 13N 25 13N 23 17N 34 19N 34 27N 6 35N 34 20N 26 16N 30 16N 30 16N 30 15N 31 13N		7 9 5 0 8 9 5 0 9 2 5 0 9 2 5 0 7 5 0 0 7 5 0 0 7 5 0 0 7 4 0 0 7 4 0 0 7 6 0 0 8 0 0 0 7 6 0 0 8 0 0 0 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 7 4 0 0
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NORT 19H1 20H5 20H6 18G6 a 18G6 a 12H3 20H3 19H3 19H4 19H4 17G5 a 17G5 a 20H4 18G5 a	HERN GREAT BASIN 8ALO MOUNTAIN BARBER CREEK (CAL.) CEOAR PASS (CAL.) OENIO CREEK (OREG.) OISMAL SWAMP (CAL.) EAGLE PEAK (CAL.) 49-MTN HAYS CANYON LITTLE BALLY MTN OREGON CANYON (OREG.) OUINN RIOGE RESERVATIIN CREEK (CAL.) TROUT CREEK (OREG.)	17 45N 23 39N 12 43N 14 415 B 47N 31 48N 35 40N 7 42N 1 39N 8 45N 9 405 9 47N 12 46N 10 415	21E 16E 14E 34E 34E 22E 15E 19E 19E 40E 41E 15E 38E	67 20 6500 7100 6500 7500 7200 6000 6400 6400 7240 6300 5900 7800

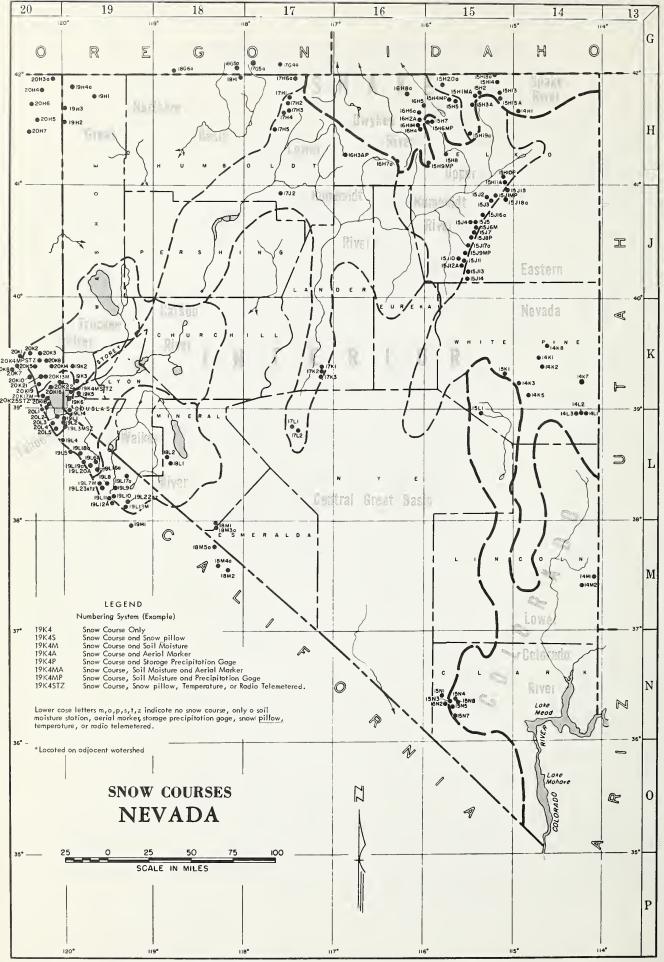
NUMBER NAME						
19L14	NUMBER	NAME	SEC.	TWP.	RGE.	ELEV.
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	15N5 15N4 15N3 15N8 14M1 14M2	KYLE CANYON LEE CANYON #1 LEE CANYON #2 LEE CANYON #3 MATHEW CANYON PINE CANYON	1 0 9 1 0 1 0	195 195 195 65	56 E 56 E	8 4 0 0 9 2 0 0 8 5 0 0

NUMBERING SYSTEM (EXAMPLE)

19K4 5NOW COURSE ONLY
19K45 5NOW COURSE AND 5NOW PILLOW
19K4M 5NOW COURSE AND 5OIL MOISTURE
19K4A 5NOW COURSE AND AERIAL MARKER
19K4A 5NOW COURSE AND STORAGE PRECIPITATION GAGE
19K4MA 5NOW COURSE, 5OIL MOISTURE AND AERIAL MARKER
19K4MP 5NOW COURSE, 5OIL MOISTURE AND PRECIPITATION
GAGE
19K45TZ 5NOW COURSE, 5NOW PILLOW AND TEMPERATURE RADIO
TELEMETERED.

LOWER CASE LETTERS m, a, p, s, t, 2, INDICATE NO SNOW COURSE, ONLY A SOIL MOISTURE STATION, AFRIAL MARKER, STORAGE PRECIPITATION GAGE, SNOW PILLOW, TEMPERATURE, OR RADIO TELÉMETEREO.

*LOCATEO ON AOJACENT WATERSHEO



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

FOR NEVADA

January 1, 1969

NEVADA'S 1969 WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK IS "NEAR AVERAGE" AT THIS EARLY WINTER DATE. JANUARY 1 SNOW SURVEYS INDICATE ABOVE-AVERAGE SNOW WATER CONTENT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE STATE. THE ABOVE-AVERAGE SNOW PICTURE IS TEMPERED BY THE SOMEWHAT DEPLETED RESERVOIR STORAGE, HOWEVER. LAST YEAR'S HEAVY RESERVOIR USAGE TO AUGMENT THE LOW STREAMFLOW HAS LEFT BELOW-AVERAGE CARRYOVER STORAGE IN MOST OF THE RESERVOIRS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Early season storms have deposited a good blanket of snow in the mountains and valleys of northern and central Nevada.

January 1 snow surveys are limited in number but indicate that most of the state has about 125 percent-of-average snow pack.

The Lake Tahoe-Truckee River area snow pack is already near the February 1 average water content. The snow pack in the Carson and Walker River drainages is similarly above average and near the February 1 normal.

The Owyhee and Humboldt Basins received a good snow cover during the Christmas Day storm. These basins are currently above normal, with the lower elevation snow pack almost twice the average for this date.

Soil moisture is below average over most of the state. Measurements indicate that the mountain soils are drier than either of the past two years at this time, but the moisture level has improved since the October measurements.

Reservoir storage is far below average in the Owyhee and Humboldt drainages. Storage in the Tahoe-Truckee area is in good shape, with Tahoe containing 133 percent of average for this date. The water held in storage in the Carson and Walker drainages is about 85 percent of average.

To maintain this "near-average" water picture, Nevada must receive average or above-average amounts of snow for the remainder of the snow season.

February 1 snow surveys will cover a wider area, and, by that time, about two thirds of the season's total snow water will be deposited, giving a much better indication of the 1969 water supply.



NEVADA
STATUS OF RESERVOIR STORAGE
January 1, 1969

				USABLE STORAGE - 1000 ACRE-FEET					
BASIN AND STREAM		USABLE APACITY 1000 AF)	1969	1968	1967	JAN. 1 15-YR. AVE. 1953-67	CHANGE Since Sept. 30 1968		
Owyhee	Wild Horse	*	0	4	2	13	0		
Lower Humboldt	Rye Patch	179	20	50	68	64	+ 3		
Colorado	Mohave	1,810	1,515	1,734	1,574	1,618	+122		
Colorado	Mead	27,217	15,355	14,338	15,481	16,895	+337		
Tahoe	Tahoe	732	503	547	364	376	- 11		
Truckee	Boca	41	2	2	2	10	- 11		
Truckee	Prosser **	30	10	10	8	Storage began 1/30/	63 - 2		
Carson	Lahontan	286	134	213	117	149	+ 44		
West Walker	Topaz	59	18	50	20	26	+ 10		
East Walker	Bridgeport	42	17	38	19	22	+ 10		

^{*} Reservoir under construction; usable capacity held to 17,000 acre-feet.

** Flood control use allocation of 20,000 acre-feet between November 1 and April 10.

TOTAL RESERVOIR STORAGE

Developed from Wild Horse, Rye Patch, Tahoe, Boca, Lahontan, Topaz, and Bridgeport Reservoirs in 1000's Acre-Feet

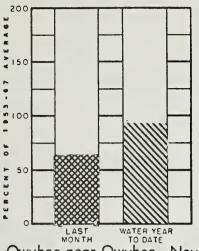
MONTH	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	AVERAGE 1953-67
October 1	702	497	1136	559	965	649	656
January 1	748	789	1110	593	904	694	660
February 1	776	922	1050	736	939		715
March 1	774	949	1038	792	1025		768
April 1	779	1002	1055	943	1080		839
May 1	818	1103	1092	978	1074		890

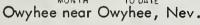
TOTAL USABLE CAPACITY 1,356

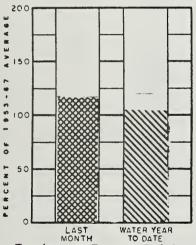


SELECTED CURRENT STREAMFLOW STATIONS

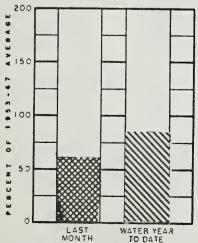
January 1, 1969



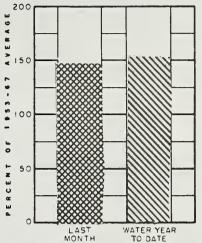




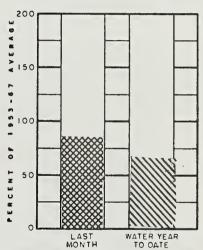
Truckee at Farad, Calif.



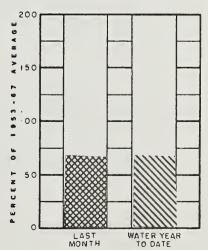
W. Walker near Coleville, Calif.



Humboldt at Palisade, Nev.



Carson near Carson City, Nev.



Virgin at Littlefield, Ariz.



NEVADA SNOW SURVEYS

January 1, 1969

				W COURSE M				
			1969		Past	Recor		Content
Drainage Basin			Snow	Water				1953-67
and '		Date of	Depth	Content				erage
Snow Course	Elev.	Survey	(Inches)	(Inches)	1968	1967	Jan. 1	Apr. 1
SNAKE RIVER								
Bear Creek	7800	12/27/68	37	8.8a	8.2	-	6.6 *	19.1
Goat Creek	8800	12/27/68	36	7.5a	5.7	-	6.8 *	18.3 *
Hummingbird Springs	8945	12/27/68	37	8.8a	7.9	_	7.0 *	22.0 *
Pole Creek R. S.	8330	12/30/68	32	7.8	7.6	9.9	6.5 *	19.7 *
Red Point	7940	12/27/68	19	4.5a	4.1	-	2.8 *	10.2 *
OWYHEE RIVER								
Big Bend	6700	1/2/69	25	5.5	Т	2.7	2.6 %	8.1
Gold Creek	6600	1/2/69	20	4.0	0.0	2.2	1.6 *	4.7
Taylor Canyon	6200	12/30/68	22	3.4	T	3.1	1.6 *	2.9
HUMBOLDT RIVER								
Fry Canyon	6700	1/2/69	33	6.4	1.7	3.3	2.3 *	6.3
Rodeo Flat	6800	1/2/69	27	5.7	T	2.4	2.4 *	5.8
Tremewan Ranch	5700	12/30/68	17	2.8	T	1.0	0.4 %	0.0
LAKE TAHOE-TRUCKEE F	RIVER							
Donner Summit	6900	1/2/69	67	21.3	14.2	-	-	35.1
Echo Summit	7450	1/3/69	61	18.9	9.8	-	-	33.8
Free1 Bench	7300	12/30/68	32	8.8	5.0	5.2	-	9.6
Glenbrook #2	6900	12/29/68	29	6.6	4.6	4.6	-	11.1
Hagans Meadow	8000	12/30/68	40	10.8	5.2	9.1	-	16.4
Independence Camp	7000	12/30/68	46	12.6	8.9	9.0	-	22.0
Marlette Lake	8000	1/2/69	50	13.5P	8.5	10.4	-	20.1
Richardsons #2	6500	12/28/68	40	9.6	7.5	6.2	-	14.9
Tahoe City	6250	12/28/68	34	8.7	6.3	4.5	-	8.1
Upper Truckee	6400	12/30/68	29	6.9	5.0	3.8	-	6.8
Ward Creek #3	6750	12/31/68	67	19.8	12.6	15.6	-	42.3
CARSON-WALKER RIVERS	3							
Sonora Pass	8800	12/27/68	46	11.4	7.5	13.9	-	22.6
Virginia Lakes	9500	12/26/68	42	8.2	5.8	12.3	-	17.1

^{*} Adjusted 15-year average.

a Aerial snow depth gage reading; water content estimated.

P Automatic snow-measuring station

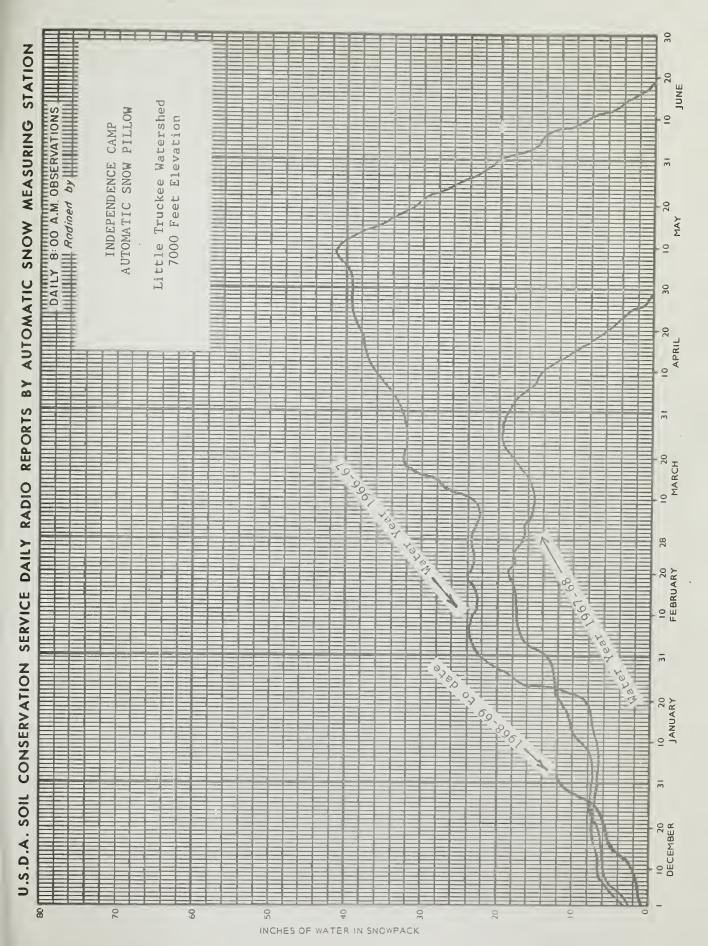


NEVADA SOIL MOISTURE

January 1, 1969

		PROFIL	E (Inches	Inches) SOIL MOISTURE				
BASIN AND STATION	Elevation	Depth	Capacity	Date	This Year	Summer 1968	Last Year	2 Years Ago
OWYHEE-HUMBOLDT								
Big Bend	6700	48	16.7	1/2/69	16.0	15.8	14.7	15.5
Rodeo Flat	6800	42	11.0	12/31/68	10.7	10.5	10.4	9.1
Taylor Canyon	6200	48	15.1	12/30/68	12.4	12.6	14.5	11.6
TAHOE-TRUCKEE								
Independence Camp	7000	34	6.1	12/30/68	5.1	3.4	4.9	5.5
Marlette Lake	8000	50	3.7	Estimate	1.0	0.6	2.5	2.7
Ward Creek	7000	49	5.8	Estimate	1.0	0.6	4.8	5.5







Agencies Cooperating in Collecting Data Contained in this Bulletin

FEDERAL

Agricultural Research Service
Army
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
Forest Service
Geological Survey
Navy
Soil Conservation Service
U.S. District Court - Federal Water Master
Weather Bureau

STATE

California Cooperative Snow Surveys
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Water Resources
Colorado River Commission of Nevada
Idaho Cooperative Snow Surveys
Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Nevada Cooperative Snow Surveys
Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Division of Water Resources
Nevada State Forester-Firewarden
Oregon Cooperative Snow Surveys
University of Nevada
Utah Cooperative Snow Surveys
White Mountain Research Station, Univ. of California

PRIVATE

Amalgamated Sugar Company
Kennecott Copper Corporation
Nevada Irrigation District
Owyhee Project North Board of Control
Owyhee Project South Board of Control
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Pershing County Water Conservation District
Sierra Pacific Power Company
Squaw Valley Development Company
Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
Walker River Irrigation District
Washoe County Water Conservation District

Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for the snow survey reports. Their Cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE P.O. Box 4850

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

domestic and municipal water supply, hydro-electric power water supply for irrigation, necessary for forecasting generation, navigation, Furnishes the basic data mining and industry "The Conservation of Water begins with the Snow Survey"

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